In the Claims:

Applicant hereby cancels, without prejudice, claims 8-16 as being drawn to a non-elected species. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the foregoing claims through the filing of one or more divisional applications.

Claim 1. (cancelled)

Claim 2. (previously presented) The prodrug of claim 19, wherein *n* is an integer from 3 to 6.

Claim 3. (previously presented) The prodrug of claim 19, wherein *n* is 5.

Claim 4. (previously presented) The prodrug of claim 19, wherein the polypeptide is Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Met.

Claim 5. (cancelled)

Claim 6. (previously presented) The prodrug of claim 19, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

Claim 7. (cancelled)

Claim 8. (cancelled) A method for enhancing the oral availability of therapeutic polypeptides of the general formula aa_n, where *aa* is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where *n* is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally, wherein the method comprises the steps of chemically linking the polypeptide to a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl to form a prodrug.

Claim 9. (cancelled) The method of claim 8, wherein the polypeptide is chemically linked to the carrier moiety through a non-therapeutic linker species.

Claim 10. (cancelled) The method of claim 9, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

Claim 11. (cancelled) A method for the treatment of a physiological condition through the oral administration of a therapeutically effective species comprising the steps of:

a.) chemically linking a therapeutic polypeptide of the general formula aa_n, where *aa* is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where *n* is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally, to a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxy-cinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl to form a drug; and

b.) orally administering the prodrug to a patient exhibiting the physiological condition.

Claim 12. (cancelled) The method of claim 11, wherein the polypeptide is chemically linked to the carrier moiety through a non-therapeutic linker species.

Claim 13. (cancelled) The method of claim 12, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

Claim 14. (cancelled) A method for the controlled release administration of a therapeutically effective polypeptide of the general formula aa_n, where *aa* is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where *n* is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally, comprising the steps of:

a.) chemically linking a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl to form a drug; and

b.) orally administering the prodrug to a patient.

Claim 15. (cancelled) The method of claim 14, wherein the polypeptide is chemically linked to the carrier moiety through a non-therapeutic linker species.

Claim 16. (cancelled) The method of claim 15, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

Claim 17. (previously presented) The prodrug of claim 19, wherein the prodrug is cinnamoyl [-]Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Met[-)].

Claim 18. (previously presented) The prodrug of claim 19, wherein the carrier is cinnamoyl.

Claim 19. (previously presented) A prodrug to be used orally in the treatment of physiological conditions comprising a carrier moiety selected from the group consisting of cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl, wherein the carrier moiety is chemically linked to a therapeutic polypeptide of the formula aa_n, where aa is an amino acid and n is an integer from 2 to 10, and the therapeutic polypeptide is linked to the carrier moiety by a non-therapeutic linker species, wherein the therapeutic polypeptide is one substantially not absorbed following its oral administration.

Claim 20. (previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a carrier moiety selected from the group consisting of cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylactyl, 3,4-methylenedioxy-cinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl, chemically linked to a therapeutic polypeptide of the formula aa_n wherein aa is an amino acid and n is an integer from 2 to 10 through a non-therapeutic linker species, wherein the therapeutic polypeptide is one substantially not absorbed following its oral administration.

Applicant respectfully request that the following dependent claims be added to the present application:

Claim 21. (new) The prodrug of claim 19, wherein said therapeutic peptide comprises one that is absorbed from about 0 % to about 25 % following its oral administration.

Claim 22. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20, wherein said therapeutic peptide comprises one that is absorbed from about 0 % to about 25 % following its oral administration.

Claim 23. (new) The prodrug of claim 19, wherein said therapeutic peptide comprises one that is not absorbed in a therapeutically effective amount.

Claim 24. (new) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20, wherein said therapeutic peptide comprises one that is not absorbed in a therapeutically effective amount.